



Louisville's FY2020 Unsheltered Homeless Initiatives Report

Period Two (January 1 - March 31, 2020)

Prepared on April 30, 2020

Presented by: Tameka Laird, Director
Louisville Metro Office of Resilience and Community Services

The overall goals of the Street Homeless Initiative include: move homeless residents from unsheltered to sheltered; engage, educate and improve the collaboration between social service organizations; invigorate and motivate solutions that would change the outcome of homelessness; and create innovative resolutions that will fill the gaps, dissipate barriers and mitigate underlining issues that led to homelessness.

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2020 Annual Homeless Street Count Results

Conducted by the Coalition for the Homeless, January 30, 2020

Counted 139 people sleeping outdoors compared to 118 counted in January 2019 (nearly an 18% increase)

(Notes: There were extreme cold temperatures in 2019. There were 153 people counted outdoors for the 2018 count which had temperatures comparable to the 2020 count.)

2018 Louisville Homeless Census

Released by the Coalition for the Homeless on April 19, 2019

- Advocates and outreach teams provided services to 6,986 unduplicated homeless people (both unsheltered and sheltered) between Oct. 1, 2017 and Sept. 30, 2018, which was a 4.3% increase from the 6,695 served in the previous year.
- The number of unsheltered people served throughout 2018 decreased from 774 to 632 (18% decrease). The number of sheltered individuals served increased by 7.3% from 5,921 to 6,354.

(Note: The 2019 Louisville Homeless Census is anticipated to be released around June 30, 2020.)

Executive Summary

Louisville Metro Government's Office of Resilience and Community Services (RCS) is pleased to present the second period report for FY20 Street Homelessness Initiative entitled, "Louisville's FY20 Unsheltered Homeless Initiatives Report: Period Two (January 1 - March 31, 2020).

These initiatives are funded by a \$1 million allocation from Louisville Metro Government's FY20 Operating Budget. This is a continuation of work started in early 2019 when the city allocated more than \$500,000 for programs. Both FY19 and FY20 initiatives build on work begun in the fall of 2017 when Mayor Fischer created the Homeless Encampment Task Force, currently chaired by Tameka Laird, Director of RCS.

The Task Force was formed in response to the rise in unsheltered homelessness that Louisville, like many American cities, had seen in recent years and the resulting increase of individuals sleeping outside, in encampments, or in places not meant for habitation.

For the FY20 Street Homelessness Initiative, ten non-profit agencies were awarded funding - chosen in collaboration with the Coalition for the Homeless - to deliver programming and services from September 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020, including: three low-barrier shelter options; moving the temporary storage facility to a more permanent location; continued rapid re-housing and emergency services for families; and funding for street outreach services.

It is also important to note that these initiatives were selected to align with the eight recommendations outlined in the University of Louisville study, "Solving Street Homelessness in Louisville, Kentucky," released in June 2019. (View full report on the Coalition's website at louhomeless.org.)

Through the assistance of U of L through the Commonwealth Institute of Kentucky (CIK), a programmatic evaluation of all the funded Street Homeless Initiatives will be released in summer 2020 which will include:

- An assessment of the individuals served
- A snapshot of the unsheltered population in general
- Recommendations for programmatic enhancements and future funding levels

It is anticipated that this evaluation initiative will lead to publication opportunities that will contribute to the field of "Best Practices" both on a local and national level.

As a community, Louisville attempts to address homelessness in a coordinated and comprehensive manner, using data to identify gaps in services and streamlining the use of valuable community resources. The initiatives targeted for unsheltered homeless individuals - and the work of the Homeless Encampment Task Force - are only part of efforts being done to address homelessness in the short-term and for the long-term.

The COVID-19 Outbreak that began to grip our community in March 2020 created some additional challenges for our homeless community, fluid changes of shelter requirements, and new opportunities to collaborate to ensure our homeless neighbors would be taken care of during these unprecedented times.

The Office of Resilience and Community Services and Louisville Metro Government are grateful for the expertise and collaboration of our community partners, including organizations that are a part of the Coalition and the countless residents who help our homeless neighbors.

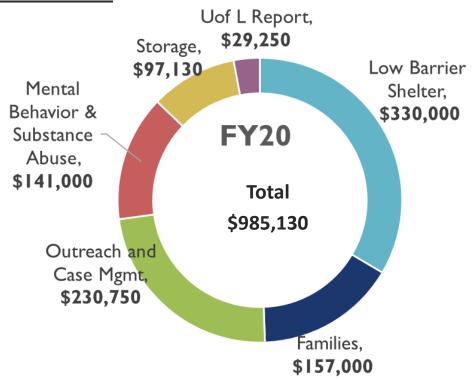
Executive Overview

FY20 Timeline and Funding Areas

Timeline

Activity	Date
Metro Council FY20 Budget approved \$1 Million for the continuation of the successful unsheltered homeless initiatives.	June 25, 2019
Mayor Fischer, Metro Council members and community partners hold a press conference to announce plans for \$1 Million for FY20. (Programs operating September 1, 2019—June 30, 2020)	Sept. 6, 2019
Report Due for First Reporting Period: Sept. 1—Dec. 31, 2019	Jan. 15, 2020
Report Due for Second Reporting Period Jan. 1—March 31, 2020	April 30, 2020
Preliminary Street Homelessness Initiatives Evaluation Plan released	April 2020
Report Due for Third/Final Reporting Period: April 1—June 30, 2020	July 15, 2020
Final Street Homelessness Initiatives Evaluation Plan released	July 2020

Funding Focus Areas



Executive Overview (cont.)

FY20 Plan and Continued Needs & Identified Gaps

FY20 Plan

- Mayor Fischer proposed and Metro Council approved \$1 Million from the city's FY20 Operating Budget for the continuation of homeless initiatives.
- In September 2019, 10 non-profit agencies were allocated this funding to administer a plan through June 30, 2020.
- Funding to move the transitional storage launched at a temporary location in March 2019 to a permanent location at the Salvation Army that will have expanded hours of operation. The storage provides a place where individuals experiencing homelessness can store their belongings when going into shelter.
- Three options for low-barrier shelter beds via St. Vincent de Paul, Wayside Christian Mission, and The Healing Place.
- Continued funding for rapid re-housing services and emergency shelter for homeless families, provided by Volunteers of America.
- Ongoing street outreach teams enhanced by social workers and other professionals who can provide behavioral and mental health counseling, drug and alcohol addiction assessments and counseling services, as well as legal expertise.
- University of Louisville will evaluate the effectiveness of each of the individual programs in this initiative.

FY20 Plan based on recommendations from U of L's "Solving Street Homeless in Louisville, KY" (released June 2019)

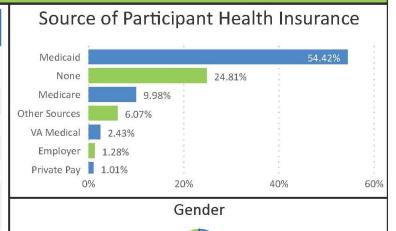
- 1 Expand and evolve homeless services
- 2 Encampment policies
- 3 Create a system of low-barrier shelters
- 4 Improve collaboration
- 5 Housing and community development
- 6 Address root causes of homelessness beyond housing
- 7 Community education and engagement
- 8 Evaluate the outcomes of new policies and programs

Continued Needs and Identified Gaps

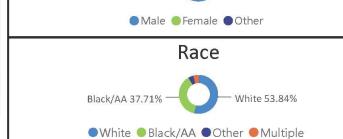
- Continued funding for Homeless Initiatives
- Expediting Louisville Metro Housing Authority (LMHA) inspections
- Recruitment of Landlords/Identifying housing inventory of pre-approved HQS & property maintenance requirements
- Fair Housing Ordinance providing regulations for homeless to be able to live where they want to live (led by Metro Council)
- Better equipping the new and increasing homeless population of Elderly and Disabled persons
- Housing Recidivism how to keep the homeless housed?
- "Safe parking" options for homeless families/individuals living in their vehicles
- Additional shelter options, in addition to the Healing Place, for sex offenders
- Standardization of referral procedures between service providers
- Calendar of services/events to enhance coordination between service providers
- Refinement of outreach team composition additional trainings/stakeholder involvement
- Fair Market Rate vs Small Area Fair Market Rate
- Federal policies which limit service providers' ability to assist all those in need

Homeless Initiative Grant Demographics of Persons Served January 1, 2020 - March 31, 2020

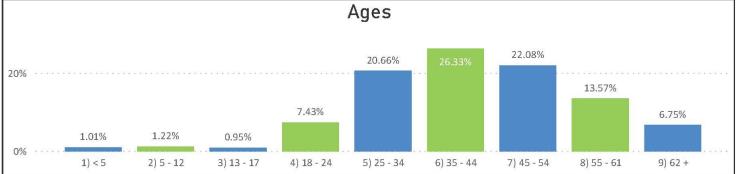
Participant Subpopulation	# Served ▼
Total # of Persons Served this Period	1562
Adults (age 18+)	1434
Total # of Households Served	1415
Adults with No Income	905
Chronically Homeless Persons	531
# with a History of Domestic	398
Violence	
# with No Health Insurance	368
Youth Under Age 25	105
Veterans - Total	104
# Currently Fleeing Domesitc	101
Violence	
# of Persons with Unknown Age	81
Children (<18)	47
Veterans - Chronically Homeless	43



66.46%



32.98% -



Physica	l & Mental Health Conditions
Condition Mental Health Problem	4.14% ¬ 7.53% ¬
Physical Disability	9.35% 0.83% 25.81%
Chronic Health Conditi	9.35% 0.83%
Both A&D Abuse	
Development Disability	12.49%
Drug Abuse	20.03%
Alcohol Abuse	20.93%
•HIV/AIDS	18.94% —

Participants with	#
3+ Conditions	516
None	370
1 Condition	230
2 Conditions	218
DNC	185
Condition Unknown	36
Doesn't	7
Know/Refused	
Total	1562

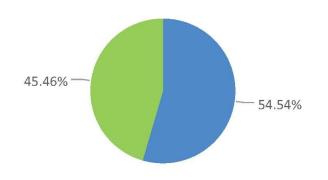
Homeless Initiative Grant Demographics of Persons Served January 1, 2020 - March 31, 2020

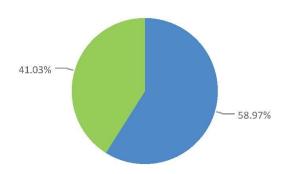
Chronic v. Non-Chronic Homelessness

(Chronic homelessness is defined as 12 consecutive months of homelessness or 12 non-consecutive months over a 3yr period. The numbers below only reflect participants for whom these data were available.)

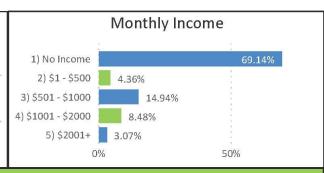
Persons Served by This Grant

All Louisville Single Point of Entry Projects





20% 20.37% 20.37% 15.22% 15.46% 23.65% 15.22% 15.46% 23.65% 15.22% 15.46% 23.65% 24.65% 25.25



What Do the Data Tell Us?

Who Got Help this Quarter?

- 390 between the ages of 35 and 44
- 66% were male

38% were black

- 53% were white
- 105 Persons under 25 years of age
- 516 had three physical or mental health conditions at once
- 25% had no health insurance
- More than 50% of households had no income
- Cumulatively, an unduplicated 2,420 persons have been served through this grant since September 1, 2019
- **Based on data** available for this period, the average person served with this fund was a white male between the ages of 35 & 44 with no income and a mental health condition, physical disability, and chronic health condition with health insurance through Medicaid. This "average person" is likely to have been living on the streets for more than two years.

How Do You Know?

All data was retrieved from HMIS, the Homeless Management Information System. From the aggregated data it is possible to give a snapshot of all persons served with this funding.

Period 2 Program Outcomes

Low-Barrier Shelter

Participating Agencies: Wayside Christian Mission, The Healing Place, St. Vincent de Paul

Wayside Christian Mission:

- 98.15% Occupancy Rate (8,932/12,200 nights of lodging)
- 6 families with children exited from low barrier sheltter to Waysides family emergency shelter
- 346 Unduplicated Individuals Served

The Healing Place:

- 1,973 bed nights provided in period 2, providing hundreds of vulnerable Louisville residents a safe place to take shelter and obtain detox and other professional services from Healing Place, or other partner, staff.
- Expanded low barrier shelter beds from 24 to 48 beds.

St. Vincent de Paul:

- 54% of people in the second quarter who slept in a sanctuary bed achieved greater stability, as evidence by their positive exit permanent housing, transitional housing or congregate shelter beds
- 52 people have been served in the Sanctuary bed program to date. All 52 would have been homeless if they weren't staying at Ozanam Inn.

Rapid Rehousing

Participating Agencies: Volunteers of America

- Assisted 18 families including 31 adults and 31 children served. These families went to hotels first and then shifted to shelter or remained living in the hotel.
- Hired a new case manager with a history of working with people who are homeless.
- The case manager has been able to offer immediate support to families, including transportation assistance and advocacy support, among the many other wrap around services provided by other Volunteers of America staff and partners.

Period 2 Program Outcomes

Storage

Participating Agencies: Salvation Army

• The Coronavirus pandemic has increased the need for storage. We have seen an increase of clients from an average of 20-25 a day to up to 40 a day. We have had to turn away some people who are staying in the Healthy Shelters and storing items daily but who also have items for long term storage. Before the Corona virus impacted the community, we were already bordering on full capacity.

Outreach

Participating Agencies: St. John Center, UP Louisville, Family Health Center, Wellspring, Legal Aid Society

St. John & UP Louisville: (Agencies work as team for project)

- 10 households for an aggregate total of 33 households (83% of goal) secured permanent housing.
- Outreach served 143 individuals and families (196% of goal).
- Made 182 referrals to homeless services agencies and shelters (276% of goal).
- Made 42 relevant referrals from the community seeking assistance 34 were responded to (81% of goal).

Family Health Center (Phoenix):

- 143 project participants received clinical services with 190 encounters.
- 7 participants exited to permanent supportive housing/2 exit to transitional housing/1 exited to Rapid Rehousing/9 participants have been referred to PSH or RRH and are currently awaiting housing placement.
- 43 crisis interventions performed.

Wellspring:

- Wellspring currently has 45 active clients on caseload with additional referrals pending, an increase of 10 from period 1.. Wellspring continues to meet with referrals and referral sources completing intakes and assessments during this time.
- 96% of current caseloads meet with psychiatrist within 30 days.

Legal Aid Society:

- Project H.E.L.P staff provided direct legal representation to 3 clients.
- Project H.E.L.P served 65 homeless clients closing a total of 72 cases.
- Of the 72 cases that the Project H.E.L.P. Team closed this quarter, 14 addressed a consumer debt issue, 26 aided in a family law matter, 16 pertained to a government benefits issue, 6 addressed a housing issue, 7 were in regard to expungement of the individual's record, and 3 involved life planning matters. 10 of these cases were taken for extended representation while the other 62 received advice or brief services to help resolve their legal issue.

Impact Stories

Dedicated and skilled staff members

When "Charles" made contact with the Legal Aid Society in 2019, his claim for disability benefits had just been denied. He was frustrated because he suffered from serious health issues, could not work and had been trying to get benefits for years. At the time he met with Project H.E.L.P. attorney Jeff Brown (pictured to the right) at the St. John Center for Homeless Men, Charles was homeless and living with his wife who was also homeless. Jeff helped Charles file for an appeal, working with Charles, his wife, his medical providers, and the state disability agency to ensure that the agency had all the records it needed to make a good decision. At the beginning of the year, Charles was finally approved for benefits. In addition to his regular monthly payment, Charles will receive about \$8,000 in back-payments.



Jeff Brown, Legal Aid Attorney

Stock photo

Comprehensive mental health services

"Rosie" was referred to Wellspring by UP for Women and Children. At the time of her assessment, she was found huddled in the corner with her stocking cap covering her face. She was dealing with extreme paranoia and was in apparent crisis. Working with a Wellspring case manager, peer support specialist and therapist, Rosie was able to overcome her limitations and obtained housing in just 68 days. She has met with the psychiatrist and is currently considering starting medication. She is much better able to manage her symptoms and has responded to the supports that have been provided. She had been seeking hospitalization on a weekly basis, but has not felt that need since February.

Safe and welcoming places

Jon had been homeless for more than a year-suffering from chronic and severe mental illness that left him open to exploitation on the street - when he entered the Sanctuary Bed Program at Ozanam Inn. There he was able to secure psychiatric medications, receive one-on-one therapy, and obtain Social Security Income, a cell phone and bank account. Despite all of his progress, he was in need of more intensive therapies. His case manager connected with Jon's family to help refer him to Central State Hospital which has helped him become more stable. Jon is now better equipped to work on obtaining housing.



Ozanam Inn Part of St. Vincent de Paul

Collaboration Highlights Among Homeless Initiative Recipients

Legal Aid Society

The inclusion of a Project H.E.L.P. attorney with the Street Outreach Teams when they go out into the community was an invaluable collaboration. The clients served are better for the information we gain from this collaboration and gives them better access to resources.

Phoenix Health Centers

The project has engaged in active partnership with other grantees, including monthly case review meetings and weekly outreach with the St. John Center Outreach team.

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

Working in the Homeless Initiative model has provided opportunities to collaborate in deeper ongoing partnerships with sister agencies, such as Wellspring (and their ACT program), St. John Day Shelter, and Phoenix Health Center.

Volunteers of America

One of the best things about the Homeless Initiative Program and the city is that we do work so well together. The Coalition for the Homeless and St. John Center's outreach team have been the most collaborative partners for this project and working with U of L and the research team has brought even more opportunities for collaboration that would not have been possible without this program.

Wellspring

Many of the referrals for our program come from our community partners. We collaborate with them to not only assist in locating our clients but also by wrapping around services, such as medication management, completion of paperwork, and assistance in connecting with a psychiatrist.

Salvation Army

Prior to the Coronavirus, we were effectively collaborating with outreach teams from the Common Assessment Team, St. John Center and UP for Women and Families to provide case management and other supportive services for unsheltered community members. We look forward to resuming these collaborations when conditions stabilize and the need for social distancing has abated.

The Healing Place

Working with the homeless initiative has provided the opportunity to troubleshoot and get feedback from one another about issues specific to our organization. It has also been an opportunity for networking and making community contacts that can benefit those we serve.

Wayside

Louisville Metro Office of Resilience and Community Services is working with our families on their permanent supportive housing searches and the hotel has provided some accommodations for VOA's project-funded activities.

St. John Center for Homeless Men and Up for Women and Children

The collaboration among the agencies involved in the Homeless Initiative, as well as other established agencies in the city, has been critical to the success of the Outreach Team. Open communication between service providers about resources and opportunities available provides clients with the ability to gain accurate information quickly and from people they trust. The Outreach Team can personally introduce clients to other service providers, such as staff from the VOA, the Common Assessment Team, Day and Overnight Shelters, Legal Aid Society and Health and Mental Health providers. St. Vincent de Paul and Wayside's Low Barrier shelter have worked hard to collaborate with the Outreach Team to provide support for clients with high needs, while the VOA has been a vital resource for supporting families experiencing homelessness. The regular meetings provide the Outreach Team an opportunity to discuss complicated client cases from many perspectives and with the people in the room who have access to different resources that lead to the provision of services that are most effective for each client's individual needs.

Helping our Homeless Neighbors during the COVID-19 Pandemic Challenges/Modified Services/Response

Challenges

- It is difficult to follow the best practices of washing your hands and avoiding being in close quarters with others if you don't have access to running water or live in a home of your own
- People experiencing homelessness also have a higher rate of chronic illness than people with stable housing.
 Reduced staffing levels and temporary loss of volunteers lead to reduced outreach and other services.
- Encampment residents lacking awareness/education on COVID-19
- Concerns for staff members', volunteers' and clients' health
- Limited space and capacity to practice social distancing, and provide separate quarantine areas
- Lack of supplies
- Over capacity at Salvation Army storage facility
- More challenging to locate housing



Photo by Alton Strupp/Courier-Journal

Photo by Alton Strupp/Courier-Journal

Modified Services

- Additional screenings including checking temperatures
- Limiting home visits, video conferencing, case management by telephone
- Non –essential movement restricted and identifying quarantine space when necessary
- Working collaboratively, with support from the city, to identify and secure resources including PPEs, hand sanitizers, garbage bags, cleaning supplies, etc. in order to maintain homeless services to the community and keep staff safe and healthy.
- More frequent cleanings/sanitation of work spaces/client spaces
- Minimum loss of bed count in shelters by using Interim Guidance to keep their shelters healthy.
- Alternate sleeping orientations head to feet

Response

Louisville Metro Government's Incident Management Team, in collaboration with the Coalition for the Homeless and other agencies that provide homeless support developed a multi-layered strategy.

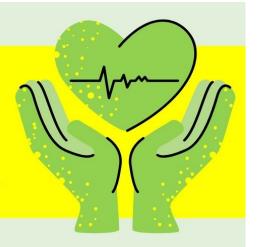
- COVID-19 specific shelter options including:
 - ♦ 400-capacity day shelter at the Salvation Army Brook Street location for men and women with added bonus of providing lunch
 - Healthy Overnight Shelter with a 60 bed capacity for men and women at Salvation Army (Brook Street)
 - ♦ Isolation/Quarantine shelter in partnership with the Salvation Army Joy Center and the Family Health Center Phoenix Clinic for those who have been medically ordered to self-quarantine or who have contracted the COVID-19 virus. This shelter provides medical support and a place to recover from COVID-19 exposure.
 - ♦ Temporary shelter for families by providing hotel vouchers as a bridge to permanent housing
- Port-a-potties and hand-sanitizing stations installed at seven locations around the city
- Louisville Shelter/Outreach Guidance during COVID-19—developed by the Coalition for the Homeless in partnership with Louisville Metro Public Health & Wellness



Salvation Army's Joy Center Isolation/Quarantine shelter

COVID-19

Homelessness Support



For updates about the COVID-19 crisis in Kentucky, visit www.kycovid19.ky.gov

For resources for people working directly with clients experiencing homelessness, visit www.louhomeless.org

For CoC Guidance for shelters and outreach workers, visit www.louhomeless.org

"Working collaboratively to support organizations on the frontlines of helping our most vulnerable friends and neighbors is more important now than ever before. This is what a compassionate city does in a crisis."

- Mayor Greg Fischer

Helping our



Appendix A: Financials

For more information and updates: Visit Louisville Metro Office of Resilience and Community Services website at louisvilleky.gov/RCS

		Appendix AFY20 Recipient Expenditure Report Second Period (January 1 - March 31, 2020)			
UL Street Study Priorities	Name	Scope of Work	Panel Recommended Budget starting 09/01/2019- 06/30/2020	2nd Quarterly Disbursement	Remaining Balan ce
2 & 4	Salvation Army	Storage Move the temporary storage facility on Liberty Street to the Salvation Army property. We would then take over the daily operations of the storage facility	97,130.00	65,065.00	32,065.00
		Low Barrier Shelter			
er.	St Vincent DePaul	SVDP is requesting \$30,000 to support the creation of 10 additional overnight beds in individual rooms that would serve people who have special needs that make the congregate dorm setting difficult (those with health and safety concerns.) This is part of SVDP's effort to lower barriers.	30,000.00	20,000.00	10,000.00
က	The Healing Place	Provide emergency shelter for men from Dec 01, 2019 through Mar 30, 2020. Our goal is to remove as many barriers as possible to our overnights shelter. Clients will have access to a clean, safe place to eat, sleep and shower. We will also serve as a resource center	100,000.00	67,000.00	33,000.00
က	Wayside	Wayside Christian Mission proposes to continue its Low Barrier Shelter as its currently being operated. We will continue to address the following barriers. 1)people with their pets 2)couples w/o children 3)families w/o shelter 4) People who have banned from shelters and who are not violent	200,000.00	67,000.00	133,000.00
1 &3	VOA	Proposes to continue our Homeless Encampment and low barrier shelter services to support continued rapid rehousing services and emergency shelter for	157,000.00	105,000.00	52,000.00
		nomeless lamines in need of mineulate nousing and supportive services in coulsying Outreach and Case Management			
184	St. John Center and UP Louisville	St. Johns Center's new Homeless Outreach Program, in cooperation with UP, seeks out street homeless individuals and families. The team connects these people with the resources they need to move toward housing, ultimately reducing the number of homeless on the streets.	230,750.00	153,875.00	76,875.00
		Behavioral and Mental Health and Substance Abuse			
184	Wellspring	Requesting assistance from Metro Louisville to help support an Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) team whose primary focus will be to serve homeless adults with serious mental illness and substance use disorders. Additionally, we will prioritize those who are chronically homeless and anticipate that many will also have co-occurring physical health conditions. The clients we want to serve are those with serious mental illness who have not been well engaged, if at all, in the traditional mental health system, who are often too symptomatic to manage in shelters, and who frequently revolve through the emergency services system without a lasting resolution to their plight. We recognize that cultivating treationships with this population has its challenges but by virtue of the fact that we can offer assistance in getting folks housed, we believe that we have an advantage over many providers. In fact, our niche has become serving the hard to	100,000.00	67,000.00	33,000.00
1&4	Phoenix Health Center	This project will partially fund a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (or other licensed professional) to provide clinical assessments and counseling services to homeless individuals living on the streets or in emergency shelters.	11,000.00	11,000.00	0.00
184	Legal Aid Society	The opportunity to collaborate and serve as a resource to the street outreach team, both as a direct resource for training as well as to address client specific issues. Our participation in regular meetings as well as working directly with the team will provide a unique opportunity to assist individuals first hand with legal barriers to safety and secure housing. As you know, we are also working "upstream" on preventative measures, though not through this specific proposed collaboration. This includes stemming off evirtions before they are filed evirtion defence and community education reparding housing rights. It is our hope to be a source of help to our community in	30,000.00	20,000.00	10,000.00
		addressing homelessness across the spectrum of prevention of homelessness and action in response to those who are homeless.			
7	University of	U of I Homeless Initiative Evaluation Homeless Initiative Evaluation Report *	29,250.00	n/a	29,250.00
	Louisville	FY20 Homeless Initiative Recipient Total	985,130.00	575,940.00	409,190.00
		Continuation of FY19 services	14,870.00	14,870.00	0.00
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409,190.00

590,810.00

1,000,000.00

Mayoral Approved Homeless Initiative Budget

